



NEWS

CONTACT: Fran Clader
(916) 843-3310

Media Relations Office
601 N. 7th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

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FEWER DEATHS ON CALIFORNIA ROADS DURING 3-DAY HOLIDAY

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Memorial Day weekend 2010 saw a dramatic decrease from the previous year in the number of people killed on state roadways. Final statistics released by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) show 17 people were killed in collisions throughout the 78 hour Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) which began Friday, May 25 at 6 p.m. and continued through Monday.

CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow attributes the more than 62 percent decrease in fatalities from last year's Memorial Day weekend to the increased enforcement and awareness.

"It's encouraging news, but the motoring public should remember that safety never takes a holiday," said Commissioner Farrow. "Always wear your seat belt, watch your speed and never drink and drive."

For the second year in a row, arrests by CHP officers during the Memorial Day weekend were up slightly from 1,465 in 2009 to 1,541 this year. In addition, one-third of the vehicle occupants killed in CHP jurisdiction were properly restrained at the time of the crash.

"Wearing a seat belt or using a child safety seat is not a choice, it's the law," added Commissioner Farrow. "Not only will it save you from a citation with a hefty fine, but it may save your life or the life of someone you love."

The 2010 *Click It or Ticket* mobilization continues through June 6. This year, fines and fees have increased from \$132 to \$142 for first time adult seat belt violations. For children under 16, the fine is now \$445 for a first time offense.

Before you buckle up, the CHP also encourages motorists who are planning a summer getaway to make sure their vehicle is ready to roll before hitting the road. In addition to checking underneath the hood of the vehicle, always maintain proper pressure in your tires. Check them when the tires and the outside air are cool. Don't forget the spare tire. And finally, inspect tire treads for wear. National Tire Safety Week is June 6–12, 2010.

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